



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

*Robert A. Smith*  
#9 B/31/B

In re PATENT APPLICATION of  
LYONS et al.

Application No: 10/007,692

Group Art Unit: 3724

Filed: December 10, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

Title: Die Assembly

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

March 25, 2003  
**RECEIVED**  
MAR 28 2003  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Hon. Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination on the merits, please enter the following amendment.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

- Sub B2-7*
1. (Amended) A die assembly, comprising:  
a base<sup>10</sup>  
a lower adjustable post<sup>12</sup> having a base-contacting surface that is mounted for linear movement with respect to said base between a first cutting position and a second cutting position, including movement in a first direction; *to the left*  
a first force applying mechanism<sup>15, 22</sup> coupled to said base and to said adjustable post to move said adjustable post between said first cutting position and said second cutting position;  
an upper, impacting post<sup>21</sup> being movable between an impact position proximate to said adjustable post and an elevated, removed position in which said impacting post is displaced away from said impact position and said adjustable post, including being movable in a second direction that is transverse to said first direction; and  
*inherent in alligator claw*  
a second force applying mechanism coupled to said impacting post to move said impacting post between said removed position and said impact position,
- A*